

Lt. Governor John Garamendi Announces Appointments to Economic Development Commission's Agricultural Advisory Committee

Oakland, CA – The California Commission for Economic Development (CED), chaired by Lt. Governor John Garamendi, today approved the appointment of 28 Californians to serve on the Commission's Agricultural Advisory Committee. As Chair of the CED, Lt. Governor Garamendi has worked to revitalize this once-defunct commission, and has spearheaded the appointment of Advisory Committees representing vital sectors of California's economy.

"The importance of agriculture in California's economy cannot be overstated," said Garamendi. "I look forward to working with our partners in agriculture to build a sustainable growth economy and maintain California's position of leadership in the global marketplace."

The bipartisan CED, consisting of government, community, labor, business, and education leaders, provides policy advice and recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and private sector to improve the economic well being and quality of life for all Californians through local and statewide economic development. The Agricultural Advisory Committee will provide expertise regarding agricultural business in the state, identify key challenges to the industry's growth and offer recommendations for solutions. Tom Nassif, President/CEO of Western Growers Association and Vice Chair of the CA Commission for Economic Development, will chair the Ag Advisory Committee. The members are:

- Chuck Ahlem, Founding Partner and Co-Owner, Hilmar Cheese
- Roger Baccigaluppi, President, RB International
- Michael Barr, President/CEO, CA Agricultural Leadership Foundation
- Barry Bedwell, President, CA Grape and Fruit Tree League
- Michael Bradley, Chief, Bureau of Exhibits, CA Exposition and State Fair
- Steven Burns, Principal, O'Donnell Lane Agricultural Consulting
- Mark Chandler, Executive Director, Lodi Woodbridge Wine Grape Commission
- Rich Engel, UC Davis Dean's Office, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Bonnie Fernandez, Executive Director, Center for Produce Safety
- Bob Gallo, Co-President, Gallo Winery
- Henry Giacomini, Second Vice President, Shasta County Farm Bureau
- Bob Gray, CEO, Duda Farms
- John Harris, Owner, Harris Farms
- Dr. Joe Jen, Senior Advisor to the President, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- John Lacey, Member, Lacey Livestock Partnership, Lacey Ranches
- Ron Lind, President, UFCW Local 5
- William (Bill) J. Lyons Jr., CEO, Mape's Ranch
- Dan Macon, Owner, Flying Mule Farm
- Bill Mattos, President, CA Poultry Federation
- Joel Nelson, President, CA Citrus Mutual
- Len Richardson, Editor, California Farmer
- Richard Rominger, Farmer, Winters, CA
- Karen Ross, Executive Director, CA Wine Grape Growers Association

- Dr. Andrew Thulin, Department Head, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Mike Wade, Executive Director, California Farm Water Coalition
- Paul Wenger, First Vice President, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Scott Wickstrom, Co-Owner, Wickstrom Dairies
- Chris Zanobini, Executive Director, California Pear Advisory Board
- United Farm Workers, Representative TBD

Upon taking office in 2007, Garamendi worked with Governor Schwarzenegger to revitalize the commission which will generate and recommend policies that enhance our economy, and to create opportunities for future growth, research, development and new markets.

In addition to his responsibility to foster economic growth through the CED, the Lieutenant Governor serves as a member of the governing boards of the University of California and California State University. Upon taking office, Garamendi pledged to use his role in these institutions to aggressively promote the creation of new, high wage jobs and build a sustainable economy for California's future.